

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 07862 070301Z

70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-19 NIC-01 RSR-01 /104 W
----- 021452

R 070136Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7819

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 7862

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: CIVILIAN GAINS IN CHINA'S PROVINCES

SUMMARY. THE UPWARD ADJUSTMENT OF CIVILIAN PROVINCIAL STRENGTH IN THE AFTERMATH OF LIN PIAO'S FALL SUGGESTS THAT THE REGIME MAY ALSO INTEND TO BRING CIVILIAN-MILITARY POWER AT HIGHER LEVELS INTO BALANCE. END SUMMARY

THE FOLLOWING IS THE SUMMARY PORTION OF HONG KONG'S A-212:

1. CIVILIAN STRENGTH ON CHINA'S PROVINCIAL-LEVEL PARTY COMMITTEES HAS REBOUNDED QUIETLY BUT SIGNIFICANTLY FROM ITS LOW PRIOR TO LIN'S 1971 FALL. AT THAT TIME, ALMOST THREE-FIFTHS OF THE PROVINCIAL CCP SECRETARIES--AND OVER FOUR-FIFTHS OF THE PARTY NUMBERS ONE AND TWO--WERE IDENTIFIED PLA MEN. PURGES AND NEW APPOINTMENTS SINCE HAVE NOW PULLED CIVILIANS AHEAD IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SECRETARIES (82 TO 81). ADDITIONALLY, CIVILIANS IN 16(OF 29) PROVINCES WHERE THE MILITARY IS LESS DOMINANT NOW HOLD HALF OF THE HIGHEST TWO CCP POSITIONS ON EACH COMMITTEE. IN FOUR OTHER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HONG K 07862 070301Z

PROVINCES RUN BY POWERFUL COMMANDERS AND THIER POLITICAL COMMISSARS

CIVILIANS NOW OCCUPY 50 PERCENT OR MORE OF THE SECRETARYSHIPS. THUS CIVILIAN STRENGTH HAS NOW ACHIEVED A ROUGH PARITY WITH THAT OF THE MILITARY IN THE PARTY'S PROVINCIAL LEVEL COMMITTEE.

2. NEVERTHELESS, THE PLA STILL RETAINS ITS TRUMP CARD--CONTROL OF CHINA'S MILITARY REGIONS (MR'S). THE STRUCTURE GIVES MR COMMANDERS MILITARY CHAIN-OF-COMMAND AUTHORITY OVER PLA MEN WHO ARE SECRETARIES IN OTHER PROVINCES WITHIN THE REGION, AND THERE ARE CONTINUING SIGNS THAT MR'S FUNCTION IN IMPORTANT NON-MILITARY SPHERES AS WELL. WE SUSPECT THAT CIVILIAN-MILITARY PARITY IS NOW A MINIMUM REGIME GOAL. LOGIC SUGGESTS THEREFORE, THAT UNLESS THE MR COMMANDERS ARE REMOVED FROM POLITICS, THE MR'S WILL HAVE TO BE OFFSET WITH AN EQUIVALENT CIVILIAN REGIONAL STRUCTURE.

3. ONE INDICATION THAT THE CIVILIAN-STAFFED PARTY BUREAUS MAY BE RECONSTITUTED IS THE PRC'S RECENT REHABILITATION OF TENG HSIAO-PING, WHO SET UP THE BUREAUS IN 1961, ALONG WITH HINTS THAT THREE OF HIS FORMER REGIONAL PARTY BUREAU CHIEFS ARE ALSO BEING CLEARED. A FINAL REGIME DECISION TO RETURN CHINA'S PROVINCES TO PARTY BUREAU RULE, HOWEVER, MAY HAVE TO DEAL IN SOME FASHION WITH OBJECTIONS RAISED BY MR COMMANDERS LIKE CHEN HSI-LIEN, POLITBURO MEMBER AND BOSS OF MANCHURIA. CHEN HAS ALREADY VOICED HIS DISPLEASURE WITH CERTAIN POST-LIN TRENDS IN THE PRC, POSSIBLY INCLUDING THAT TOWARD CIVILIANIZATION.

4. WHATEVER CHANGES ARE MADE AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL, THEY WILL PROBABLY REFLECT THE SIGNIFICANT GAINS CIVILIANS HAVE REGISTERED IN THE PROVINCES SINCE LIN'S FALL. THESE GAINS COULD ALSO FORESHADOW RELATED ADJUSTMENTS IN PEKING, SINCE THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S MAKE-UP IS IMPORTANTLY BASED UPON THE COMPOSITION OF PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP.

OSBORN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973HONGK07862
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS OSBORN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730854/aaaabnjv.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jul-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <04-Dec-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVILIAN GAINS IN CHINA'S PROVINCES SUMMARY. THE UPWARD ADJUSTMENT OF CIVILIAN PROVINCIAL STRENGTH
TAGS: PINT, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005